

In the Abstract:

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Abstract **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An absorbent article, such as a disposable diaper or a sanitary napkin, includes a liquid permeable front sheet, a liquid impermeable back sheet, and a rectangular absorbent core between them. The absorbent core is divided into at least three parts by at least two passages, which extend between the front and back sheets through a center circle with a radius of 25 mm. The front and back sheets and the parts of the core are formed so that the passages each have a width of from 2 to 6 mm and a depth equal to a thickness of the core so that a depression is not observable along any passage from front or back of the article. The core is preferably divided into eight parts by three passages that intersect at a within the center circle. ~~in which discharged liquid can be penetrated and diffused quickly. A rectangular shaped flat absorbent core interposed between a front surface sheet and a back surface sheet comprises at least one ditch traversing a point within a circle with a radius of 25 mm from its plane center to the periphery of the flat absorbent core so as to divide the flat absorbent core into not less than two parts[[.]]~~